

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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DRAFTED BY ARA ARTHUR P. SHANKLE/PR
APPROVED BY ARA MR. H.W. SHLAUDEMAN
S/NM NORMAN WARNER
ARA/NC, J. MAISTO (DRAFT
ARA/MGT C.GROVER (SUBS)
CA/FS/ARA, J. TULL (SUBS)

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R 201618Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, APER

SUBJECT:NARCOTICS COORDINATOR

REF: 5741 - BOGOTA

1. DEPARTMENT APPROVES EMBASSY PLAN TO TEST ASSUMPTION THAT NARCOTICS COORDINATION MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT UTILIZING FULL-TIME POSITION AND TO NAME JOHNSTEPHENS AS PART TIME NARCOTICS COORDINATOR DURING THE TEST PERIOD.

2. IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF COLOMBIA AS A NARCOTICS PROBLEM COUNTRY (SECOND ONLY TO MEXICO IN LATIN AMERICA), AND THE AMBASSADOR'S PERSONAL INTEREST IN AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENSURING THAT THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM IS CARRIED OUT WITH MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS, DEPARTMENT REQUESTS THAT AMBASSADOR PROVIDE PERSONAL ASSESSMENT OF HOW WELL COORDINATION IS FUNCTIONING AFTER 45 DAYS OF TEST PERIOD, RATHER THAN AFTER THREE MONTHS AS SUGGESTED REFTL.

3. DEPARTMENT'S DECISION TO CONCUR BASED ON AMBASSADOR'S COMMITMENT TO NARCOTICS PROGRAM AND UNDERSTANDING THAT DCM WILL HAVE A CONTINUING CLOSE SUPERVISORY AND PARTICIPATORY

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ROLE IN NARCOTICS COORDINATION FUNCTION.

4. WITH REFERENCE PARAGRAPH 1 C REFTTEL, EMBASSY SHOULD NOT REGARD NARCOTICS COORDINATOR POSITION AS FUNGIBLE. IF VACATED PERMANENTLY, IT WOULD BE WITHDRAWN AND NEED FOR ANY NEW POSITIONS WOULD BE EXAMINED ON OWN MERITS. INGERSOLL

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